Chairman: Does the House grant permission to withdraw the motion?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Chairman: I now put to the vote of the House Demand III—Public Works—Electrical Department for Rs. 24,87,608.

The grant was made.

DEMAND IV—INDUSTRIES.

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,45,531 under Demand IV—Industries.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Sir, I oppose the motion. Sir, with reference to the working of this department my poor memory brings back to me a line from Wordsworth. "Things which I have seen before, I see now no more". That is exactly applicable regarding the working of this department. In the Government order on the report of the department for 1107 the following remarks are made :—

> "The tapping of underground water in the arid tracts of the State which has already been taken up should be continued."

Another remark by the Government on the activities of the department is about the development of cottage industry. It is as follows :—

> "The report makes no mention of the activities of the department in the development of cottage industries. In G. O. R. O. C. No. 3021|23|Devpt, dated the 19th February 1927, the Government have passed orders with regard to the improvement of the bellmetal industry. The report is silent as to how far the orders relating to this branch have been given effect to."

Those are the remarks passed by Government in reviewing the work of the department. In 1108 also the Government have passed similar remarks about the working of this department. Sir, it is rather embarrassing for the members on this side of the House to make very cutting remarks about the working of any department. But the honourable members who occupy the Government benches also should feel that they ought to work up to the expectations of the tax-payer. We are only doing our duty in that matter. Sir, I know the working of the department for the last 10 years. Therefore, I can say that the remarks passed by the Government in reviewing the work of the department were absolutely not exaggerated. Nothing has been continued in the next year, and the next year's report mentions nothing about the activities of the department for the previous year. It is better not to single out one, but every head of the department is going on working just like a labourer for the day's work.

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Chairman: Better confine yourself to this particular department.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Yes, Sir. My point is that the department is working without any data or definite idea with regard to the constructive side of the activities. Sir, the department is a scientific department, and it is staffed with all available experts. So the head of the department is sanctioning the proposals of new experiments by these experts and these experts go on working; but nothing comes out in any shape or form. Before advancing my arguments, there is one argument used by the Director of Industries, which I have to examine. He says that the funds allotted by Government do not meet the requirements of a development department like the Industries Department. One could very well conceive the strength of that argument. Therefore, the Government is more to be blamed for the inactivity of the department; and either the department should be struck off from the list or adequate funds should be allotted for it, if the Government hopes that by the working of this department the general prosperity of the State could be ensured. But in either case there seems to be something wrong somewhere. If sufficient funds are allowed and if this is the kind of work that is going to be turned out by the department, I do not know for what purposes these funds will be utilised. I can enumerate several instances where money was wasted on experiments. Some years back some work was carried on with the boring machine with a view to finding out artesian wells in South Travancore. Then some operations were undertaken in Thonnackal on limestone-beds. Then a proposal was made to introduce electric power to work the fly shuttle looms. There is no use of enumerating these things. The department is silent about all this. Then there were experiments on umbrella making and ginger syrup manufacturing; with what result? The less said about the department, the better They are jumping from place to place to find solid ground to justify the existence of the department. But nowhere they find firm ground. That is the way in which the department is working. The Government after reviewing the report of the department passed definite orders calling the attention of the Director of Industries that whatever is attempted by the department should be continued till some definite results are obtained. It is not for a poor member like me to ask the head of the department to account for all the money he has wasted in carrying out such experiments at the expense of the tax-payer. It is rather humiliating for the Government to advance funds for the doubtful success of the activities of this department, especially so when the

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[Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.]

Director ignores the orders of the Government made year after year. I may ask the question how many looms have been got down for textile works? How many looms are working successfully? Why are some others not working? What is the amount of money lost on this account? These are very simple questions for the Director to answer. But what can they do? They are now embarking on big schemes of advertisement for Travancore. They start sales depots. But no definite policy is chalked out under which the department is to be worked. What are these experts doing? All sorts of difficulties are pronounced that stand in their way. They are ever going on with some experiment; and every experiment is not expected to succeed and you will have to go till eternity to obtain some tangible result 99 per cent. of them fail, and to make amends for all the failures they say one at least will be a success. There also success is far away. That is my grievance. The remarks passed by Government show this feeling.

Then about the technical school. They say that the school is continuing to be popular.

Chairman: You have only two minutes more.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Sir, I am referring to the Commercial School at Alleppey. There a few students are taught shorthand, ypewriting and book keeping. Probably their argument is cutting both ways. The success of the institution justifies the existence of the department because the few who come out successful get employment. But in view of the existence of so many efficient private institutions in and outside Trivandrum which are prepared to coach students, this school can very well be abolished; and that credit can be taken away from the Department of Industries.

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: സർ,

Chairman: മിസ്റ്റർ പത്മനാഭപിള്ളയോട് സംസാരിക്കാൻ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുപോയി

Mr. J. John Kattakayam: ഇന്നത്തെ അജൻഡയിൽ ഇതു വരുമെന്നു വിചാരിച്ചിരുന്നില്ല.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: I rise to a point of order. Whether the Government member can speak before the members on this side have done with their speeches?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai: Sir, the honourable member Mr. K P. Nilakanta Pillai said that the department does not follow up their proposals regarding certain industries such as the bellmetal industry, etc. In fact they did follow up the bellmetal industry, by

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giving industrial loans to some of the bellmetal manufacturers and that is the reason why we did not think of starting that industry departmentally.

With regard to the boring machine, we had a machine just for prospecting minerals. Now it is transferred to the P. W. D. Whenever it is required we generally take a loan of it. One of the members of the Assembly wanted some prospecting work to be done in Nedumangad.

We have a Geological Assistant in the department who is following up that line of work. With regard to the charge that the power looms in the department were not working, I may say that we have several fly-shuttle looms in the Central Technological Institute for training teachers who come from various weaving schools and almost all of them were working. Later on we purchased power-looms. Last year, for want of power we were not able to work the power-looms. Towards the end of last year we got the motors required for working and all the looms are working even now.

With regard to the Commercial School, there was a demand from the public that a Commercial School will have to be opened at Alleppey because it is one of the most important commercial centres and students trained there may get employment in the town of Alleppey or elsewhere. And the school continued to be popular. Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai said that this is the only technical institute on which the department can claim popularity, but there are several other technical schools for weaving, carpentry and many other industrial works which are equally popular and efficiently conducted under the supervision of the department and there is such a rush for admissions in some of the schools, such as the S. M. T. School, etc. Then he said that we are not continuing some of the experiments we started last year and he referred to the remarks by the Government on our administration report.

There is a remark in the administration report that we did not follow up the cocoanut jaggery experiment ; in fact we did follow it up but we were not able to get sufficient jaggery from Parur and other places, because there was no general licensing system for tapping cocoanut trees for jaggery. Very recently, towards the end of the year, Government granted license to a certain person and he started producing jaggery on a large scale, and the sugar produced from cocoanut jaggery is available for sale from Travancore Sugar Factory. It must be clear to the honourable member that the experiment carried out by the Industrial Chemist is successful. The contractor of the Travancore Sugars successfully proved that the experiment carried out by our Chemist is useful.

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Mr. Kattiyattu Sivarama Panickar : May I know from the member what he proposes to do with the students who are undergoing training in the tannery at Karamanai on its abolition ?

Mr. N. K. Padmanabha Pillai : Sir, we have not decided yet what is to be done with them, but if there are chances for them in some of the other technical institutions and if they are willing to join we will try to take them. Since we are starting a rubber factory they may be able to get some work there.

Chairman : The House will now adjourn to meet again on Monday at 11-30 A. M.. As the Dewan President has to open the exhibition in the Girls High School, the usual time of the meeting of the Council at 11 A. M. will be changed to 11-30 A. M. and the House will sit till 5-30 P. M. on Monday.

The Council adjourned at 5-5 P. M.

P. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI,
Secretary to the Sri Chitra State Council.

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